

GEM OF THE CITY

Grand Rapids Points with Conscious Pride to Her

GREAT FURNITURE INDUSTRY

Some Accounts of Its Early Beginnings, With Special Mention of Representative Establishments.

William Haldane was the pioneer cabinet maker of Grand Rapids, coming in 1839, and was soon followed by Amos Salmon, Samuel F. Butler and Abram Smiley. All of these did their work by hand, and catered exclusively to the local trade—residents of the village and surrounding country. Mr. Haldane, however, in 1838, introduced some rude machinery, and the first Grand Rapids steam engine was built by Elisha Smith to drive it. William T. Powers came in 1847 from New Hampshire, and in 1848 began the manufacture of bedsteads, employing two men, a circular saw, a lathe and a boring machine. The firm of Powers & Hall was organized in 1851, and in a few years was doing a business of \$30,000 per annum, shipping by river and lake, as well as selling at home.

In 1853 Winchester Brothers engaged in the same business, and a little later on Mr. Haldane retired. Mr. Powers followed suit in January, 1857, when Ball, Noyes & Colby succeeded Powers & Hall, but the new firm went to the wall a few months later, when Mr. Powers bought them out and continued the business until early in the '60s, when he dropped it for good. Meantime William A. Berkey came here and began the manufacture of ash, bluffs, etc., but failed, and subsequently joined his brother Julius, and otherwise the making of furniture under the style of Berkey Bros. & Co. Elias Matter being a member of the firm. Mr. George W. Gay came in three years afterwards and Mr. Matter went out. William A. Berkey retired after six years, the old firm becoming the Berkey & Gay Furniture company, while William A. Berkey organized the Phoenix. By this time the industry was firmly established, but something was needed to bring the output of Grand Rapids factories to the notice of mankind at large. That something appeared in the shape of the Centennial exposition, where a splendid exhibit was made, and the name and fame of the Valley City at once spread throughout the civilized world. The furniture industry of the city has since advanced with giant strides, and it is claimed that in this branch of manufacture she has no rival, whether as regards the excellence and beauty of the volume and value of output. The leading source here for indefinite expansion, and with cheap transportation of materials and finished goods such as can be furnished only by a deep water channel to Lake Michigan, there is good reason to believe that the achievements of the past merely hint at what the future may bring forth. On the first of January last the number of furniture factories in Grand Rapids was 46; number of employees, 6,613; capital employed, \$6,169,300; value of product for the year, \$10,010,000. There has doubtless been a great increase during the past year, but it is impossible to obtain the exact figures at this time.

The furniture association has asked for 12,000 square feet of space at the Columbian world's fair, and if they obtain it will make such an exhibit as never was seen before on either side of the Atlantic.

The Royal Furniture Co.

Julius Berkey, president; A. W. Houppe, vice president; C. C. Reichenbach, secretary; C. H. Berkey, treasurer. Manufacturers of fine furniture exclusively, Nos. 166, 168 and 170 Canal and 153, 155, 157 and 159 Kent streets.

J. B. Beckwith, representing W. E. Upjohn & Co., the famous New York importers of mahogany logs and mahogany furniture, recently stated to a reporter that Grand Rapids is one of the best markets for his product, a large proportion of the output being consumed by the manufacturers of fine furniture, among the most prominent representatives of which interest is the Royal Furniture company, originally incorporated January 1, 1883, capital stock \$60,000, as the Universal Tripod company, by Messrs. Julius and C. H. Berkey. In 1891 Messrs. A. W. Houppe and J. C. Reichenbach joined Messrs. Berkey, a reorganization was effected, and in January, 1892, the company under its present name, originally organized by incorporation, capital stock \$100,000. All of the gentlemen named are officers in the order above stated.

Though not so extensive as some, the premises of the Royal Furniture company will compare favorably in all other respects with those of any of its contemporaries. They comprise the eight-story brick structure, 7,500 feet, Nos. 156, 168 and 170 Canal street, leased from G. W. Gay, equipped throughout in the most perfect manner and used as a factory, and the three-story and basement brick building, 10,000 feet, Nos. 153, 155, 157 and 159 Kent street, arranged as follows: Lumber storage and dry kiln located by exhaust steam in the basement; offices, draughting and designing departments on the first floor; the second and third floors fitted up for show and salesrooms, where are displayed the latest styles in fine and costly parlor, dining-room and chamber suites, special attention being given to carved work in high art designs, for the execution of which the company's facilities are unsurpassed. A particular description of the machinery outfit would prove tedious; suffice it to say that it is of the best order and ample for all present needs, an eighty-horse power steam engine is equipped to drive it, while the working force of skilled artisans for the most part numbers 170. The buildings are connected by bridges and tunnels.

A conservative estimate places the value of the Royal's product for the present year at \$250,000. As only the best woods are used—mahogany, satinwood, curly birch, bird's-eye maple and imported veneers—the statement does not seem improbable. Oak, ash, elm and other common materials are barred, and the tripod specialty of the original company was abandoned on the organization of this one.

The personnel of the Royal Furniture company is such as to itself inspire confidence, and respect. President Julius Berkey enjoys the proud distinction of being the pioneer founder of Grand Rapids' vast furniture industry, and was associated in business with Mr. Gay nearly thirty-five years ago. Treasurer C. H. Berkey is 44 years, well known in and out of the trade, and an experienced cabinet-maker. The business men.

W. Houppe, not yet 27, and an architect and designer of wide repute, came from Chicago. His delicate and beautiful work in wood carving and brass trimming is confessedly superior to that produced by any local rival—not because it is intricate or covers large surfaces, but because of its exquisite neatness and special richness in class effect. Secretary J. C. Reichenbach, nearly 35, a native of Ohio, is an accomplished business man, excellent in accounts and finance. He was with the old concern three years previous to reorganization, and conducts the general business of the concern with rare ability. The Royal Furniture company, still in its infancy, is already a busy giant, controls a market that comprises all the northern states, and has a magnificent future before it.

Valley City Rattan Company.

A. Dodds, president; A. Falkel, vice president and manager; J. A. Gibbs, secretary and treasurer. Manufacturers of rattan furniture, corner Third and D streets.

Mr. Falkel began the manufacture of rattan furniture in this city eight years ago, and, having demonstrated that the work could be done here as well and profitably as elsewhere, the Valley City Rattan company was organized and incorporated in 1894; capital stock, \$20,000. H. Woodard, president; A. Falkel, vice president and manager; C. W. Shepard, secretary and treasurer. One year later Mr. J. A. Gibbs purchased Mr. Shepard's interest, succeeding to the office of secretary and treasurer. The factory, situated at Third and D streets, on the west side, is a handsome, three-story frame building with basement and contains 23,000 square feet of floorage. The machinery throughout is of special construction and is driven by a thirty-five horsepower steam engine. The employees number seventy-three.

Mr. Falkel is a chair maker by trade, and formerly wrought in a Canadian factory where rattan work was done. Seven or eight years ago, after his removal to Grand Rapids, having secured a quantity of necessary material, he set to work upon the problem in the kitchen of his humble home. His brave and devoted wife supporting the family by her labor as a tailoress, while the husband studied, experimented, wove, unraveled and reweave, and almost lost his wife amid the meshes of elusive reeds. He persevered, however, and at last triumphed. Having mastered the details of the trade, he soon found a profitable market for the product of his hands and then began teaching others, who entered his employ, the output thus gradually augmenting in volume. Finally it became necessary, in order to supply the demand, to enlist larger capital, and the present company is the result.

A detailed description of the rattan industry would only weary the reader to no purpose. It may be said, however, that a high grade of reeds come from Germany, the cheapest from China and the medium raw material from Bombay, India. The outer covering, removed by machinery, is used for seating chairs and for window purposes, while the interior of woolly portion after bleaching in a solution of chloride of lime, is utilized by the rattan worker in the manufacture of chairs and other articles of furniture, which are then tinted by special processes, varnished, packed and stored or shipped to the trade—the nearest, easiest and most comfortable receptacles for the tired of the day.

Previous to the organization of the Valley City Rattan company there existed a combination which had a monopoly of the rattan supply—or supposed it had—and only those connected therewith could procure the material at an exorbitant price. A careful ransacking of the European ports, however, revealed the fact that there still remained one market where rattan could be procured under ordinary trade conditions, and to that they resorted with the result that the ring went to pieces, and save the tariff (and that is moderate), there is no restriction upon importations or purchases in this country.

Grand Rapids Panel Company.

Manufacturers of elastic graining plates and graining machines, Nos. 184 and 186 Front street.

The construction of elastic graining plates and graining machines and painting and varnishing machines for the reproduction of quarter-sawn oak, rosewood, mahogany and other fine woods from cheap substitutes, such as yellow poplar, basswood, etc., is a novel one. The imitation of Spanish cedar for making cigar boxes by the process of indentation has long been known, but only in the United States making elastic graining plates and graining machines for the use of piano, coffin and furniture manufacturers is located in this city—the Grand Rapids Panel company, incorporated eleven years ago with \$25,000 capital by Messrs. A. D. Fitts and W. T. Vander Linden, the latter of whom is also the inventor of the process and machinery. Mr. Fitts retired in 1887, and the company now consists of W. T. Johnson, president, and A. H. Sherwood, secretary and treasurer, who have recently built, equipped and occupy a new two-story factory, 35,500 feet, Nos. 184 and 186 Front street. The output is of special design and construction throughout, expressly adapted to the work to be done, and even the motive power—a seven-horse power gas engine—is rather unusual.

This firm has brought graining system to a state of perfection such as was heretofore impossible by those unacquainted with the facts. A specimen of their work placed side by side with the genuine rosewood or mahogany can not be distinguished by sight or touch, all the peculiarities of grain, tint, etc., being brought out in exact counterpart of the original, by means of a printing press fitted with elastic plates prepared to leave their imprint under sufficient pressure to render it permanent and "deceive the very eye." They have just perfected an entirely new style of press for graining tubs, which will perform the work of twenty men much better than it can be done by hand. Send for circular and particulars.

Grand Rapids Chair Company.

C. C. Constock, president; E. H. Foot, secretary and treasurer. Manufacturers of fancy furniture and dining chairs, No. 200 Canal street, and John Mowat, superintendent.

In the front rank of the furniture trade as respects character and volume of transactions is the Grand Rapids Chair company, organized and incorporated 1872. The enterprise was founded by C. C. Constock, who was joined by E. H. Foot and John Mowat in 1884, since which time they have jointly guided its affairs, and are still at the helm, in the possession of the genuine which has been achieved. Its success and gives evidence of unabated vigor. As it now stands the plant represents an investment of \$300,000 and covers a large tract of valuable land fronting on Canal street just north of and adjoining the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee railroad tracks. The

stantial four-story brick structure, 400 feet front by 50 feet deep, with saw mill 40,000 feet in dimensions at the north end and commodious office and warehouse at the south end—the latter an iron-clad frame building. The outfit of machinery is of the best kind, complete in all departments, and is driven by steam power. The company employs 300 hands, pays out \$3,000 in wages every week and last year made and sold \$350,000 worth of goods. The leading specialties comprise a superb line of fancy tables, library tables, hall tables, dressing tables, buffets, china closets, sideboards, book cases, secretaries, music desks, hall racks, hall settees, hall glasses, chiffoniers, parlor cabinets, music cabinets, dining chairs, hall chairs and library chairs. These are in general demand and handled by the trade in every city and town of any consequence in the United States.

Paine Bedding Company.

C. S. Paine, proprietor. Manufacturers of hair mattresses, upholstered springs and Paine's health mattress. Nos. 258 and 260 Canal street.

Colliers, Hughes & Co. began the manufacture of mattresses in 1883. A year later the style changed to the W. H. Hughes Mattress company. September 13, 1887, Henry Ives took control, retaining it until March last, when C. T. Paine became the proprietor and adopted the present style, the Paine Bedding company. The office and factory are at Nos. 258 and 260 Canal street, but on the first of October last Mr. Paine completed the four-story brick addition, a most complete structure in every detail, and supplied with elevator, electric light and the most improved machinery. It is well ventilated, dry as a chip, and in many respects a model plant. Employing

twenty males and a number of females, together with all the latest improved appliances, the capacity of the factory is correspondingly large, the output ranging from 100 to 150 beds per day, dependent upon the kind, the specialties comprising a full line of hair mattresses and upholstered springs in all grades, and Paine's celebrated "Health" mattress, besides a general line of fine and medium class bedding in every conceivable style. The Paine Bedding company has a high reputation and fills promptly large orders for the trade all over this state and some others east and west.

Mr. Paine formerly traveled for the Grand Rapids Brush company, but, having invented the health mattress which bears his name, and which has met with the unequalled approval alike of physicians and the public, turned his attention to manufacturing, in which he has achieved an enviable success. He has also added to his line Paine's medicated wool mattress, which has no equal.

Chocolate Cooler Company.

H. M. Dickinson, P. J. Vander Linden. Manufacturers of chocolate coolers, dipping tables, trays, ice cream refrigerators, stock tables and ice-fountain machines. Office, 315 Michigan Trust company building.

Manufacturing confectioners have long wanted improved apparatus for the quick, thorough and economical cooling of chocolates, marshmallows and similar goods, the shortcomings of the old style appliances being numerous and obvious. It was with the object of filling this want that Mr. P. J. Vander Linden of this city, an ingenious mechanic, began a series of experiments which resulted in the perfected drawer case chocolate cooler, for the manufacture of which the above named company was established in February last with \$10,000 capital. Mr. H. M. Dickinson joining Mr. Vander Linden to assume the business management. Mr. Vander Linden's patents cover four or five styles of the coolers named, and there is every indication, judging from the present demand, that this will eventually become one of the most noted of Grand Rapids' industrial enterprises. Mr. Vander Linden personally looks after the mechanical work. This is a guarantee that nothing leaves the shop that is not perfect in every way.

The underlying principle of the

"Drawer Case Chocolate Cooler" is the placing in the cold air chamber of the refrigerator of a number of independent air light drawers. Mr. Vander Linden was the discoverer of this principle, and has developed it until his cooler stands par excellence the best ever constructed, insuring dry walls, economy in ice, and rapid cooling, which prevents change of color. They are made in several sizes and styles, single, double and triple, containing from twelve to sixty drawers, each

thirty distinct styles in the sliding cooler, where girls sit at dipping tables on either side, each girl operating four drawers. When the trays are dipped and cooled a helper carries the full trays to the packing table and returns the empty ones. By this arrangement much more work is accomplished by the dipper, as no time is lost moving about. The trays used are made of three-ply basswood, strong, light, durable, and will not warp. They are in two sizes for large and small work.

The company's ice cream refrigerator is made double, the outside casing of ash, antique finish, with air space around the inner box, thus providing for the preservation of the ice and converting the ordinary sweat-box into a refrigerator.

The company also supplies a very convenient line of improved knock-down tables, wall-racks, etc., for confectioners' use, to which attention is invited. The knock-down dipping tables, twelve feet long, hardwood top, will accommodate eight dippers each, are arranged with or without slats, and double pans for warming the chocolate, either with steam or gas, and are convenient to handle and ship. An accompanying knock-down packing table is also furnished. The company's knock-down stock tables are made in two styles: No. 1 lower table, a three-decker, ten feet long, twenty-nine inches high, thirty-six inches wide; upper tables, nine feet seven inches long, fifteen inches apart, thirty-one inches wide. No. 2 is of the same dimensions, except in width. This is designed for a side or wall table, in the fact that the upper tables are eight inches narrower than the lower, which answers for a counter. They also make capacious and convenient store tables. Correspondence is solicited.

side proprietor of both, occupying the upper floor, about 6,000 square feet in extent. Of H. Rasmussen & Sons' two-story factory, Nos. 102 to 116 Prescott street, corner of Michigan Central railroad. Here, employing a large force of expert workmen and a complete equipment of special wood-turning and carving machinery of the latest improved styles, driven by steam, Mr. McGraw is enabled to fill at short notice all orders for rope, beaded and other moldings in infinite variety, spiral and twist wood turnings, rosettes, carved panels, corner blocks, etc., in any required design or quantity. In addition to the moldings, furniture ornaments, etc., already mentioned, orders are promptly executed for hemispherical and other forms of wood blocks for use in making cloth-covered buttons of every size.

Benedict Furniture Clamp Co.

A. C. Denison, president; J. Benedict, vice president; E. M. Wiley, secretary and treasurer. Manufacturers of Universal section and other clamps for furniture and chair manufacturers. No. 57 South Front street.

Mr. J. Benedict began the manufacture of cabinet-makers' clamps in April, 1885, and succeeded so well that just four years later, in April, 1889, the business had grown too large and complicated for him to manage in all departments, and the Benedict Furniture Clamp company was organized and incorporated with ample capital. The factory, fitted up with steam power and all necessary machinery and special tools, is situated at No. 57 South Front street, occupying a one-story and basement frame building 20 feet front by 50 feet deep. A sufficient force of competent workmen is employed, and the capacity is from \$10,000 to \$40,000 worth of finished work

per annum, embracing a variety of im-

proved clamps for the use of furniture, cabinet, table and chair-makers and wood-workers generally. In all these clamps are made in twenty-five or more distinct styles and forms, and new ones are added and patented as the demand arises.

The clamps made here are a recognized necessity in every furniture factory and indorsed by leading houses in this city and throughout the country, by all of whom they are in daily use. Simple in construction, made from the best material, easy to operate, convenient and cheap, they effect a vast saving of time, labor and shop-room.

The styles comprise the latest improved revolving case clamp for dressers, bureaus, washstands, book-cases, chiffoniers, etc., in three sizes; the Universal section clamp for glued stock; the same mounted on truck; the double case section mitre clamp; the improved double case section clamp; the bed clamp; the new improved single case and table clamp; the mitre frame clamp; the drawer clamp; the chair-back clamp, etc. The advantages claimed for the Universal section clamp are: 1. Being made entirely from iron it is indestructible. 2. Its strength. 3. Saving of floor space. 4. When not in use can be taken apart and laid away in a very small space. Any length, width or thickness of stock can be clamped. The clamps being in sections, can be used in as many different parts or sections as desired. The center block is used for the purpose of allowing two pieces to be clamped in one section.

Handsomely illustrated catalogues and circulars will be forwarded to any address and correspondence is invited.

E. Wonnink.

Forch and stair builder, manufacturer of fine counters and art woodwork, hand sawyer and wood turner. Nos. 1 and 3 Pearl street.

Mr. Wonnink came to this city from Holland twenty years ago, entered the Widdowb furniture factory, where he learned the trade in all its branches and was afterward employed for ten years. In 1882, with a single lathe, he began business for himself in a small shop on the west side, where he prospered, each recurring season finding him more and more pressed with orders, and he was obliged to employ more help and an increase of mechanical facilities. A few months ago he leased and fitted up the top floor, 50x100 feet, of the three-story brick building, Nos. 1 and 3 Pearl street.

McGraw Manufacturing Co.

Frank P. McGraw, proprietor—Manufacturers of rope and beaded moldings, spiral turnings, special twist work, corner blocks, etc. Nos. 102 to 116 Prescott street.

Three or four years ago Mr. Brocher & Co. started in the manufacture of the above-named specialties. Mr. Frank P. McGraw, who had been a member of the firm, bought the outfit and established the McGraw Manufacturing company. Last May he consolidated therewith the Kende Manu-

facturing company, which had been in business since 1870. The first-named company took charge of the factory and the general management, while Mr. Folger, an artist of more than local repute and undoubted taste, devoted his time and attention to the origination of novel and attractive designs and the elaboration of suggested effects in parlor, drawing-room, library and office furniture and fittings.

Stickley Bros. Co.

Albert Stickley, president; George Stickley, vice president; J. R. Carpenter, secretary; E. L. Maddox, treasurer. Manufacturers of artistic chairs and fancy tables. Office, factory and salesroom, corner Godfrey and Fifth avenues.

It was a substantial and deserved tribute to the attractions and material advantages of Grand Rapids when the gentlemen composing the above company, established in business at Binghamton, N. Y., for nearly twenty years, decided to close their works there and remove to this point, which they did accordingly, organizing and incorporating under the laws of Michigan in May, 1891, capital stock, \$100,000. Mr. Albert Stickley, who has been engaged in this particular business all his life, gives his personal attention to supervising the works, which is the best guarantee the trade could demand that their product is right in every respect.

The factory building, fronting 200 feet on Godfrey avenue and 70 feet on Fifth avenue, is of brick, three stories in height, with basement under all, a five-story tower containing stairs and elevator in front. In the rear is a boiler and engine room, in which is placed a magnificent 225-horse power engine of the Reynolds-Curtis type and a battery of two boilers. Throughout the structure is heated by hot air, lighted by electricity from their own dynamo, and provided with all possible conveniences and facilities, while the outfit of improved machinery, special tools, etc., is unsurpassed for excellence and completeness. The company is at present employing 200 hands, but the number is soon to be greatly increased and the outfit augmented to meet the demand, which is principally from the large eastern cities and for the first year amounted in value to about \$200,000, not a tithe of which, however, was shipped to various points in New England, the middle and western states as far as San Jose, Cal. The goods embrace beautiful lines of artistic chairs for all purposes and in an infinite variety of original designs, together with fancy tables of every description, style and material.

The Gunn Folding Bed Co.

Edwin F. Hill, president; William S. Gunn, vice president and manager; William A. Gunn, treasurer; A. S. Goodman, secretary—Manufacturers of the Gunn Folding Bed Works, west side, office with Gunn hardware company, Nos. 5 and 7 Ionia street.

The Gunn Folding Bed company, organized as above, capital stock \$75,000, was incorporated in June, 1890, and the factory buildings were at once erected on a forty-acre tract, bought for the purpose, situated on the west side of the river, adjoining the tracks of the Grand Rapids & Indiana, Chicago & West Michigan and Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee railroads, and a branch of the Consolidated street railway. A private switch connecting with the various railroads runs along the front and one side of the main building, thus facilitating shipments, as seven cars may be loaded at once.

The company's buildings are four in number, all brick, viz: One of three stories, 60x258 feet; one of three stories, 40x112 feet; two of one story, 40x100 feet; the largest devoted to manufacturing exclusively, the others utilized for the storage of material and finished beds, of which the average output is fifty per diem, giving employment to a small army of skilled and unskilled operatives. Acres of choice lumber is stored out of doors near the works for weather seasoning.

The walls of the factory proper are constructed with special reference to strength and fire resistance, and a thick fire wall divides it into two equal parts. In front is a tower 24x24 feet square for elevators and the convenient handling of materials, etc. At the rear are the connecting engine and boiler house, the former containing a fine 175-horse-power steam engine, the latter a large improved marine boiler of sufficient capacity for power and heating purposes. Of the machinery equipment it is needless to say more than that it is almost entirely of special and novel design and construction and quite sufficient for all present requirements. Ample fire protection and fire escapes are provided.

The Gunn folding bed is constructed upon novel and radically different principles from any of those which preceded it. Open or closed, it is a tasty, attractive piece of furniture, combining in itself a roomy, luxurious bed, chest of drawers, buffet and mirror; the only combination of a lady's dressing room and a gentleman's study, and with case, that will not wear out carpets (having no casters), that leaves the cabinet and mirror in front when the bed is down, that is practicable for every-day use, that can be taken apart in separate pieces without the aid of a screw driver, that has no springs to get out of order, and is easily cleaned.

Any style of spring mattress may be used; it is perfectly ventilated, safe and clear of the carpet, and the cabinet slides right or left as required. It is made in a great variety of styles, all handsome and many really artistic with moldings and carving, veneer and French and German plate glass beveled mirrors, glass heads are handled by reputable furniture dealers in every city of 10,000 or more inhabitants in the United States, and a lively export trade has set in.

The Order Work Furniture Company.

H. H. Hall, president; O. H. Folger, vice president; A. H. Ginley, secretary; J. H. Anderson, treasurer. Manufacturers of all kinds of furniture to order. Factory No. 42 Mill street. Telephone, 460.

Messrs. Ginley & Folger formed a partnership in 1890. The first-named took charge of the factory and the general management, while Mr. Folger, an artist of more than local repute and undoubted taste, devoted his time and attention to the origination of novel and attractive designs and the elaboration of suggested effects in parlor, drawing-room, library and office furniture and fittings.

On the 14th of March last they admitted Mr. J. H. Anderson, when the style was changed to the Valley City Manufacturing Company. The Order Work Furniture Company was incorporated, capital stock \$10,000, president, H. H. Hall; vice president, G. H. Folger; secretary, J. H. Anderson; treasurer, J. H. Anderson. The factory, two stories and basement, 40x100, with office in front, is situated at No. 42 Mill street, and is one of the best equipped in the city, much of the machinery being of special design and driven by the steam engine.

wood novelties. His trade is rapidly increasing at home and abroad, orders pouring in from local dealers and for shipment to other points in this and the eastern states. He has recently completed a large contract for the wonderful "Ouja," or spirit tables, a most ingenious novelty, and invites correspondence from the proprietors of the latest improved styles, driven by steam, Mr. McGraw is enabled to fill at short notice all orders for rope, beaded and other moldings in infinite variety, spiral and twist wood turnings, rosettes, carved panels, corner blocks, etc., in any required design or quantity.

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The Order Work Furniture Company.

H. H. Hall, president; O. H. Folger, vice president; A. H. Ginley, secretary; J. H. Anderson, treasurer. Manufacturers of all kinds of furniture to order. Factory No. 42 Mill street. Telephone, 460.

Messrs. Ginley & Folger formed a partnership in 1890. The first-named took charge of the factory and the general management, while Mr. Folger, an artist of more than local repute and undoubted taste, devoted his time and attention to the origination of novel and attractive designs and the elaboration of suggested effects in parlor, drawing-room, library and office furniture and fittings.

On the 14th of March last they admitted Mr. J. H. Anderson, when the style was changed to the Valley City Manufacturing Company. The Order Work Furniture Company was incorporated, capital stock \$10,000, president, H. H. Hall; vice president, G. H. Folger; secretary, J. H. Anderson; treasurer, J. H. Anderson. The factory, two stories and basement, 40x100, with office in front, is situated at No. 42 Mill street, and is one of the best equipped in the city, much of the machinery being of special design and driven by the steam engine.

steadily increasing, the liberality and considerate treatment accorded employees enabling the company at any time to pick and choose among the best cabinet-makers in Grand Rapids. Nothing whatever is made for the general market or on speculation, attention being given exclusively to order work of the highest grade—from original designs, preferably, though contracts are executed for every description of furniture, cabinet work and interior fittings.

Bankers, merchants, manufacturers, hotel men, newspaper proprietors and others of cultivated taste and means who appreciate the nature and pleasure of artistic surroundings in their offices and homes will find it profitable to correspond with the Order Work Furniture company. They are fully equipped to fulfill any order that may be given them, their facilities being first-class. Preference Hall has wide experience as a manufacturer, and is one of the most accomplished designers in the country. A notable example of their work—an art screen of rare merit—has recently been completed and placed in position in the new Southern hotel, St. Louis, Mo.

G. R. Reeves.

Proprietor of the Acme Manufacturing company and Grand Rapids Church Furniture works. Planning mill and lumber yard, corner of Hilton street and Second avenue.

About 1880 G. R. Reeves established a planing mill and lumber yard at Hilton street and Second avenue, but subsequently sold out to the Rev. A. Dodds, of whom G. R. Reeves purchased the plant about eight years ago. The mill building is a spacious two-story structure connected with which is a lumber yard, situated on the corner of the remainder of the block. The mill is fitted with the latest improved modern wood-working machinery, including circular and band-saws, planers of all kinds, moulding machines, sand-papers, etc. The stock of lumber is always complete, comprising every variety of pine, white wood, maple, oak, ash, etc., and from fifteen to twenty men are employed, transactions in rough, dressed and finished stuff footing up for the past year about 3,000,000 feet, besides great quantities of lath and shingles. Mr. Reeves selling heavily to local consumers and shipping to distant points. He makes a specialty of dimension stock to order, and of machining lumber for inside finish and other purposes. His business increases steadily and healthily every year.

In connection with his planing mill and lumber business Mr. Reeves is proprietor of the Grand Rapids Church Furniture works, which occupy a position of his mill building. Another important specialty is the manufacture of circular seating, the back being faced with a solid sheet of veneer at front and back, down away with joints and making a true curvature, both sectionally and longitudinally. The back, as a whole, is composed of Swedish wood, the grain being crossed, making a very strong, neat and comfortable seat. Leading specialties are palisade, reading desks, communion and other tables, pulpits sofas and chairs, pews, and, in a word, all interior fittings for churches, from original designs of designers and of the most elegant material and workmanship. The taste is invariably exercised, and results are consequently all that could be desired.

J. A. Anderson.

Designer and manufacturer of artistic furniture and house carving, No. 157 Canal street.